



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **WR-2**

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SAN GABRIEL CANYON SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AWARD CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT  
FOR BIOLOGICAL AND WATER QUALITY  
MONITORING AND EXOTIC WEED REMOVAL  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1 AND 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Award and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a five-year, annually renewable consultant services agreement with Chambers Group, Inc., to perform biological and water quality monitoring and exotic weed removal for the San Gabriel Canyon Sediment Management Plan (SMP) for a not to exceed fee of \$3,600,000 to be financed from the Flood Control District Fund and to establish the effective date following your Board's approval.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works to encumber \$448,000 from the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Flood Control District budget to perform the monitoring and implement exotic weed removal within the San Gabriel Canyon SMP's project area.
3. Find the exotic weed removal is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We are recommending that your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the consultant services agreement with Chambers and establish the effective date following your Board's approval. Chambers will perform biological and water quality monitoring and exotic weed removal for the San Gabriel Canyon SMP.

In June 1998, your Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the San Gabriel Canyon SMP. Public Works is required to implement the pre and postproject mitigation measures identified in the EIS/EIR prepared for the SMP. Public Works is also required to comply with the special conditions of permits obtained from the Corps of Engineers, Department of Fish and Game, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The scope of these permit requirements includes conducting a biological assessment of the project vicinity, performing population surveys, relocating and monitoring sensitive species, and conducting sediment and water quality monitoring analysis.

Also, an area below San Gabriel Dam has become infested with Tamarisk, an invasive exotic weed. Public Works believes it is prudent to remove this weed.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This contract meets Public Works' Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness as these consultant services are required infrequently and Chambers has the necessary expertise, qualifications, and experience to perform the required work. As a result, Chambers can provide these services in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

This consultant services agreement is for a not to exceed fee of \$3,600,000 over five years, renewable annually. The cost of the activities required for Fiscal Year 2001-02 is \$448,000. This cost includes a base fee of \$52,000 to perform the required monitoring for one year and \$355,000 to remove Tamarisk below San Gabriel Dam. Also, \$41,000 is included for unforeseen additional services that may become necessary as the work progresses. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without written authorization from the Director of Public Works.

There will be no impact to Public Works' General Fund. Financing for this agreement is available in the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Flood Control District budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

A standard consultant service agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced Public Works employees will be included.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration of a contract award, Chambers is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program participants for future employment.

Chambers has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with the Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program).

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the consultant services agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The award of this consultant services agreement is statutorily exempt from CEQA as specified in Section 15262 and categorically exempt as specified in Section 15304(d) of the State's CEQA Guidelines.

Upon approval by your Board, Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption for the Tamarisk removal in accordance with Section 21152(b) of the California Public Resources Code. A \$25.00 handling fee for the notice will be paid to the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for processing.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Public Works maintains a database of consultants for various services, which is the main source of soliciting proposals. On September 26, 2001, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to 21 firms from Public Works' list of qualified consultants to accomplish the services. As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, the RFP for these services was listed on the County's Office of Small Business website.

On October 15, 2001, one firm submitted a proposal for review and evaluation. The proposal was evaluated by a committee consisting of four members from Public Works. The firm was evaluated based on criteria outlined in the RFP, which include the proposers' technical expertise, proposed work plan, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the requirements. The evaluation and selection was completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of the proposal, the committee found Chambers to be qualified to perform the recommended services.

Participation of Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith effort to utilize CBEs. Chambers is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and its CBE participation data and three-year contracting history are on file with Public Works.

Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended agreement as this agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There is no adverse impact on current services or projects during the performance of the recommended services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
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**CONCLUSION**

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

MC:jac  
A:\Chambers BL.wpd

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Department of Social Services (GAIN Program)